

# LANGUAGE ACCESS ADVISORY COUNCIL

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR & INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
830 Punchbowl Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Monday, April 28, 2008  
DLIR Conference Room 310

## MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

### 2. Attendance:

Present:

- |                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| – Serafin “Jun” Colmenares | Executive Director, Office of Language Access, Ex-officio |
| – Bill Hoshijo             | Executive Director, Civil Rights Commission, Ex-officio   |
| – Dominic Inocelda         | Language Access Advisory Council, Chairperson             |
| – Gerald Ohta              | Language Access Advisory Council, Vice Chair              |
| – Sr. Earnest Chung        | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Canisius Filibert        | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Dr. Tin Myaing Thein     | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |
| – Dr. Suzanne Zeng         | Language Access Advisory Council Member                   |

Excused:

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| – Nāmaka Rawlins  | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Alohalani Boido | Language Access Advisory Council Member |
| – Lito Asuncion   | Language Access Advisory Council Member |

### Others Present:

- |                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| – Frances Lum         | Department of the Attorney General              |
| – Kendall Zukeran     | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access     |
| – Jeremy Low          | Research Analyst, Office of Language Access     |
| – Uilani Pauole de Sa | Senior Legal Analyst, Office of Language Access |
| – Kristine Pagano     | Disability & Communication Access Board         |
| – Katherine Hallet    | Interpreter                                     |
| – Keri Lee            | Interpreter                                     |
| – Melody Kubo         | Office of Equality & Access to the Courts       |

### 3. Approval of minutes of March 18, 2008 meeting.

- Motion to approve minutes, made by Gerald Ohta, seconded by Sr. Earnest Chung.
- Minutes approved unanimously, no corrections.

#### 4. **Executive Director's Report**

- See Attached Report.
- Recommendation by Kristine Pagano to highlight “OLA Executive Director’s Report” in bold for future meetings. This will make the text clearer and easier to spot for readers.

#### 5. **Legislative Matters (Covered under #4. Executive Director's Report)**

- Sr. Chung inquired regarding the recent approval by the legislature of \$2.5M budget for Micronesians. Is OLA somehow connected or does the office assist in Micronesian population issues?
- Executive Director Colmenares advised that OLA staff attend COFA/Micronesian meetings monthly and assisted in requesting that the legislature increase the budget amount, addressing the funds needed for the Micronesian community.
- Canisius Filibert added that there are three task forces working simultaneously that have taken action steps from the recent “Voices of Micronesia Conference.” They are strongly encouraging lawmakers to look into issues such as setting up a “one stop shop” resource center and other recommendations from the conference.
- Dr. Tin Myaing Thein asked if there are bills addressing the health needs of Micronesians?
- Sr. Chung replied that the need is there but agencies are under funded, there is a lack of representation, sectors are not organized adequately, but hope planning group will address the issue.
- Executive Director Colmenares answered that COFA developed a comprehensive plan but is not sure how much of the \$2.5M budget is allocated to address the health needs issue. He also added that in a recent meeting with House Speaker Calvin Say, the speaker advised that cable television stations pay taxes and part of this goes to Olelo. However, Olelo is not able to spend all these funds so he suggested that OLA ask for a certain percentage of these funds so that the council legislative committee can look into this issue.

#### 6. **Conference Reports**

##### **First Hawaii Conference on Language Access**

- Senior Legal Analyst, Uilani Pauole de Sa, summarized the evaluations and feedback received from the First Hawaii Language Access Conference. Overall, attendees enjoyed the conference and thought it was very good. Speakers were rated good to excellent. She noted that the data gathered is non-scientific.
- Attendees indicated through the surveys that they enjoyed the networking activities and presentation of various perspectives. Many thought the conference was well organized, planned, and executed.
- Suggestions included possibly including a short synopsis of each session, handouts and notes to be passed out ahead of time, ice-breakers, pre-conference workshops, resource consolidation, and viewpoints from the LEP community, etc.
- Complaints included lack of Hawaiian language recognition, the Friday session was too long for neighbor island residents, not enough Q & A time, schedule was too tight, and there should have been more involvement of community based speakers and agencies.
- Request was made to attach a blank conference evaluation form to the survey results for the next meeting minutes. This is to help the council members better compare the evaluation questions with the results. Maybe also include pie charts, statistics, # attendees, etc. (if applicable)
- Executive Director Colmenares and Gerald Ohta advised that Maui is interested in hosting the next Language Access Conference in September 2009. “The Filipina” organization would be the host. However, many issues need to be considered if conference is on

another island besides Oahu. Jeremy Low recommended that since annual conferences usually take one year to plan, action steps should begin as soon as possible.

- Executive Director Colmenares also noted that the UH Department of Language and Linguistics contacted the office and wanted to develop a project to address the language access needs of Hawaii state agencies.

#### **Annie Casey Foundation Conference**

- Executive Director Colmenares attended this conference in Maryland along with Gerald Ohta, Uilani Pauole de Sa, and Jeremy Low. He shared that various mainland speakers praised and made references to the Hawaii Language Access Conference. Aryan Rodriguez, LA Program Director for the Office of Human Rights, Washington D.C., wanted to possibly host a similar conference in New York.
- <http://www.migrationinformation.org> is a helpful link to a language portal.

#### **7. Update: OLA Rack Cards, Website, and Poster**

- Sr. Chung asked if the OLA rack cards can be printed in larger font or split up in different languages since it is currently hard to read. Executive Director advised that the cards will be replaced with the “Complaints Process” instead.
- OLA poster is being revised and a new edition will be arriving soon.
- Kristine Pagano inquired whether the OLA website is accessible for a blind person? Does it have audio capability? Executive Director Colmenares replied that this is not available currently but may be a possibility in the future. It would be helpful if OLA is given an example of a website that has this capability. The current OLA website is not multilingual yet and is currently being worked on to improve access to more LEP groups.

#### **8. Meeting Schedule**

- Chairman Dominic Inocelda stated that the meeting scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> is cancelled since it is being replaced with today’s meetings.
- Although many council members prefer the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month to meet, others have problems with the date.
- Email will be sent out again regarding a meeting date in June and future LAAC dates based on feedback from the council members.

#### **9. Adjournment**

- As there were no further discussions, meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.